

January 15, 2003
Country of Origin Labeling Program
Ag. Marketing Service USDA stop C240
Room 2002-S 1400 Ind. Ave SW
Washington D.C. 20250

Dear Sirs,

I certainly don't think this record keeping and identification is necessary for a voluntary program. I and my son run a family ranch operation in western SD, where we buy a fairly large number of stocker cattle none of which originate in Canada or Mexico - are all plainly branded with a registered SD brand and are easily identified.

This record keeping requirement as represented would be a terrible hardship on us. I think USDA's estimate of the cost of the burden of such a program is understated. We don't believe there is any practical method of keeping the records on each individual animal up to date, with the tools now available.

Our understanding of the original COOL proposal was to identify imported meats not to tie up domestic cattle operations in knots.

Sincerely Yours,

Tom Landers



President, Landers Livestock Co.

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